

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Robert Bell Game Bird Farm

Application Date: 06/03/2002

Name, Address and Phone Number: Robert Bell, Rt. 1 Box 269, Sidney, MT 59270, (406)488-1990

Project Location: Township 22N, Range 59E, Sections 2 & 16 Richland County

Description of Project: The game bird farm has pens located in two separate locations. One pen 22' x 40' x 6' is enclosed with poultry wire and has an attached shed. This pen is located approximately three miles east of Sidney along Highway 23. The other two pens 24' x 12' x 6' and 15' x 24' x 6' are also enclosed with poultry wire and have an attached shed. They are located approximately three miles north of Hwy 23 along county road 122. The game bird farm will raise Melanistic pheasants for pets. The birds will not be released into the wild and will be harvested by the owner. The bird farm is proposed to hold under 100 pheasants.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

None

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below or On Attached Pages
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area			X			See below
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectional odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments

Although not a new species, the genetic variation of the melanistic pheasant may have adverse affects on local pheasant populations. The operator, however, does not intend to release pheasants (intends to keep them as pets) and will be discouraged from selling the birds in Montana under situations where the birds could be released (i.e. shooting preserves, permit to release ring-neck pheasants, dog training permits).

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

None

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?

The accidental release of pen-raised Melanistic pheasants into the current upland game bird habitat may have adverse effects on the wild pheasant population. The genetic variant or "black mutant" could pass on undesirable characteristics to the resident populations. Diseases could be introduced into the wild population if preventive measures are not followed. Only disease free birds from a licensed game bird farm are to be purchased.

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? No

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

The no action alternative would maintain the status quo.

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

EA prepared by: Game Warden Matt Strozewski

Date Completed: 06/25/2002

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

Because of the limited size of this operation and little or no impacts resulting from the action, no EIS is required.

Describe public involvement, if any: The EA was made available on the FWP website under public notices from July 3, 2002 until July 1, 2002. Comments should be directed to Matt Strozewski at mstozew@midrivers.com or mailed to Matt Strozewski at 602 10th Street SE in Sidney, Mt. 59270.

Recommendation for license approval: _____

Wildlife Manager

Date

Warden Captain

Date